

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 16-19 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 14, 27 and 31 to read as follows (a version of the amended claims, marked to show the changes thereto, is appended):

Sub D1  
14. (Twice Amended) A photovoltaic element encapsulated with an encapsulant resin, the encapsulant resin comprising an ultraviolet absorbing agent dissolved therein, wherein the dissolved ultraviolet absorbing agent has a concentration gradient in the direction of thickness of the encapsulant resin, wherein the concentration of the ultraviolet absorbing agent is higher at a location near a light incident surface of the encapsulant resin.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

Sub E1  
27. (Amended) The photovoltaic element according to Claim 14, further comprising a silane coupling agent dissolved in the encapsulant resin.

28. (Not Currently Amended) The photovoltaic element according to Claim 27, wherein the concentration of the silane coupling agent is higher at a location near the photovoltaic element.

29. (Not Currently Amended) The photovoltaic element according to Claim 27, further comprising a surface member provided on a surface of the encapsulant resin.

30. (Not Currently Amended) The photovoltaic element according to Claim 29, wherein the concentration of the silane coupling agent is higher at a location in the encapsulant resin near the surface member.

31. (Amended) The photovoltaic element according to Claim 29, wherein the concentration of the silane coupling agent is higher at a location near the photovoltaic element.

REMARKS

Claims 14 and 27-31 are now in this application. Claims 14, 27 and 31 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 16-19 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claim 14 is independent.